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BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution,

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TIMOTHY (*Phleum pratense* L.).

Timothy is a hay grass and, to some extent, a pasture grass, especially adapted to fertile and fairly moist soils in all the States north of the latitude of southern Tennessee. It is useless to sow it on dry soils in regions where the rainfall is less than 15 or 20 inches. In the Eastern States it is ordinarily sown in the fall with wheat, being scattered on the ground after the wheat and not covered. On some clay soils it is better to sow it in the spring, as on such soils it is liable to heave out during the winter. In regions of 30 inches or more of rainfall, it is usually easy to secure a good stand by sowing in the fall with wheat. If sown in the spring, it is better to sow it alone. Oats particularly are liable to shade it out.

Timothy takes readily in mountain meadows merely from scattering seed, with no other treatment. It is usually sown at the rate of one bushel to six or eight acres, or about one gallon of seed to the acre.

Timothy is the most widely cultivated of any hay grass in America, but the usual mistake with it is made in keeping the timothy meadow down too long. In most regions it does not pay to maintain a timothy meadow for more than two or three years, particularly if it is good, arable land. After cultivating some other crop for one season, the land may again be set to timothy.

Timothy is frequently sown with red clover, but it matures so much later than the red clover that the mixture is not a desirable one. It does better with mammoth clover and also with alsike clover, as it ripens at the same time as these two.

The life of a timothy meadow may be considerably extended by giving it each fall or spring a top dressing of well-rotted manure or properly selected commercial fertilizers.

